

BA English (MAJOR) Courses

A. Core Courses

C-1/PAPER 1: INDIAN CLASSICAL LITERATURE (ICL)

Course Level Learning Outcomes:

Some of the course learning outcomes that students of this course are required to demonstrate run thus:

- explain the eco-socio-political-cultural context of the age that produced Indian classical literature from its early beginning till 1100AD
- appreciate the pluralistic and inclusive nature of Indian classical literature and its attributes
- historically situate the classical literature and diverse literary cultures from India, mainly from Sanskrit, but also Tamil, Prakrit and Pali by focusing on major texts in the principal genres
- trace the evolution of literary culture(s) in India in its/their contexts, issues of genres, themes and critical cultures
- understand, analyze and appreciate various texts with comparative perspectives

Course Content

Unit-I:

- a) The Indian Epic Tradition: Themes and Recensions
- b) Classical Drama: Theory and Practice
- c) Alankara and Rasa
- d) Dharma and the Heroic

Unit-II:

Kalidasa *Abhijnana Shakuntalam*, tr. Chandra Rajan, in *Kalidasa: The Loom of Time* (New Delhi: Penguin, 1989).

Unit-III: Vyasa 'The Dicing' and 'The Sequel to Dicing', 'The Book of the Assembly Hall', 'The Temptation of Karna', Book V 'The Book of Effort', in *The Mahabharata*: tr. and ed. J.A.B. van Buitenen (Chicago: Brill, 1975) pp. 106–69.

Unit-IV: Sudraka *Mrcchakatika*, tr. M.M. Ramachandra Kale (New Delhi: Motilal Banarasi Das, 1962)

Unit-V: Ilango Adigal 'The Book of Banci', in *Cilappatikaram: The Tale of an Anklet*, tr. R. Parthasarathy (Delhi: Penguin, 2004) book 3.

Suggested Readings:

1. Bharata, *Natyashastra*, tr. Manomohan Ghosh, vol. I, 2nd edn (Calcutta: Granthalaya, 1967) chap. 6: 'Sentiments', pp.100–18.
2. Iravati Karve, 'Draupadi', in *Yuganta: The End of an Epoch* (Hyderabad: Disha, 1991) pp.79–105.
3. J.A.B. Van Buitenen, 'Dharma and Moksa', in Roy W. Perrett, ed., *Indian Philosophy, vol. V, Theory of Value: A Collection of Readings* (New York:Garland, 2000) pp.33–40.
4. Vinay Dharwadkar, 'Orientalism and the Study of Indian Literature', in *Orientalism and the Postcolonial Predicament: Perspectives on South Asia*, ed. Carol A. Breckenridge and Peter van der Veer (New Delhi: OUP, 1994) pp.158–95.
5. A.V. Kieth, *History of Sanskrit Literature*. Oxford: OUP, 1920.
6. A.K. Warder, *Indian Kavya Literature*, 8 Volumes. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidas, 2011

Course Level Learning Outcomes

Some of the course learning outcomes that students of this course are required to demonstrate run thus:

- appreciate the historical trajectory of various genres of IWE from colonial times till the present
- critically engage with Indian literary texts written in English in terms of colonialism/postcolonialism, regionalism, and nationalism
- critically appreciate the creative use of the English language in IWE
- approach IWE from multiple positions based on historical and social locations

Course Content**Unit-I:**

- Indian English
- Indian English Literature and its Readership
- Themes and Contexts of the Indian English Novel
- The Aesthetics of Indian English Poetry
- Modernism in Indian English Literature
- The Nation and Indian English Literature

Unit-II:

POETRY

- H.L.V. Derozio 'Freedom to the Slave', 'The Orphan Girl', 'To India—My Native Land'
- Kamala Das, 'Introduction', 'My Grandmother's House'
- Nissim Ezekiel, 'Enterprise' & 'The Night of the Scorpion'
- Robin S. Nangom, 'The Strange Affair of Robin S. Nangom', 'A Poem for Mother'
- Eunice de Souza, 'De Souza Prabhu'

Unit-III:

NOVELS

- R.K. Narayan, *Swami and Friends*
- Amitav Ghosh, *Shadow Lines*

Unit-IV:

SHORT FICTION

- Rohinton Mistry 'Swimming Lesson'
- Shashi Deshpande 'The Intrusion'

Unit-V:

DRAMA

- Mahesh Dattani: *Tara*

Suggested Readings

Raja Rao, Foreword to *Kanthapura* (New Delhi: OUP, 1989) pp. v–vi.

Salman Rushdie, ‘Commonwealth Literature does not exist’, in *Imaginary Homelands* (London: Granta Books, 1991) pp. 61–70.

Meenakshi Mukherjee, ‘Divided by a Common Language’, in *The Perishable Empire* (New Delhi: OUP, 2000) pp. 187–203.

Bruce King, ‘Introduction’, in *Modern Indian Poetry in English* (New Delhi: OUP, 2nd edn, 2005) pp. 1–10.

3rd Semester

C-5/PAPER 5: AMERICAN LITERATURE (AL)

Course Level Learning Outcomes

Some of the course learning outcomes that students of this course are required to demonstrate run thus:

- understand the depth and diversity of American literature, keeping in mind the history and culture of the United States of America from the colonial period to the present (17th century to 21st century)
- understand the historical, religious and philosophical contexts of the American spirit in literature; social-cultural-ecological-political contexts may, for example, include the idea of democracy, Millennial Narratives, the Myth of Success, the American Adam, the Myth of the Old South, the Wild West, Melting pot, Multiculturalism, etc.
- appreciate the complexity of the origin and reception of American literature, given its European and non-European historical trajectories, particularly in relation to writers of European (Anglo-Saxon, French, Dutch and Hispanic) descent, as well as writers from black and non-European (African, American Indian, Hispanic-American and Asian) writing traditions
- critically engage with the complex nature of American society, given its journey from specific religious obligations and their literary transformations (such as Puritanism, Unitarianism, Transcendentalism, etc.) to the growth of anti- or non-Christian sensibilities
- critically appreciate the diversity of American literature in the light of regional variations in climate, cultural traits, economic priorities
- explore and understand the nature of the relationships of human beings to other human beings and other life forms in relation to representative literary texts in various genres
- relate the African American experience in America (both ante-bellum and post-bellum) to issues of exclusion in societies relevant to their learning experience
- analyze the American mind from global and Indian perspectives and situate the American in the contemporary world

Course Content

The texts suggested here are in addition to those in the CBCS syllabus. Some texts/portions have been changed keeping in view the Course Level Learning Outcomes (CLLO) as well as global guidelines in the LOCF documents. Stakeholders, as already suggested, may make amendments in the finalization of the corpus as well as the points raised in the CLLO.

Unit-I:

- The American Myths of Genesis/The American Dream/The American Adam
- American Romance and the American Novel
- Is *Huck Finn* the Prototypical American Novel?
- Multicultural Literature of the United States; Folklore and the American Novel
- Race and Gender in American Literature
- War and American Fiction
- Two Traditions of American Poetry; Emerson and Poe/Typological and Tropological Traditions
- Social Realism and the American Novel
- The Questions of Form in American Poetry

Unit-II:

Drama

Arthur Miller: *All My Sons*

Tennessee Williams: *The Glass Menagerie*

Unit-III:

Fiction:

Toni Morrison: *The Bluest Eye*

Unit-IV:

Short Fiction and personal narrative

Edgar Allan Poe 'The Purloined Letter'

Maya Angelou: Selections from *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (chaps 15 and 16)

William Faulkner 'Dry September'

Unit-V:**Poetry:**

Anne Bradstreet: 'The Prologue'

Walt Whitman: Selections from *Songs of Myself* (Sections 1 to 5) 'O Captain, My Captain'

Robert Frost: Two Poems: 'Once by the Pacific' and 'Mending Wall'

Langston Hughes: 'The Negro Speaks of Rivers'

Alexie Sherman Alexie: 'Crow Testament' and 'Evolution'

Suggested Reading:

Hector St John De Crevecoeur, 'What is an American', (Letter III) in *Letters from an American Farmer* (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1982) pp.66–105.

Frederick Douglass, *A Narrative of the life of Frederick Douglass* (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1982) chaps. 1–7, pp.47–87.

Henry David Thoreau, 'Battle of the Ants' excerpt from 'Brute Neighbours', in *Walden* (Oxford: OUP, 1997) chap. 12.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, 'Self-Reliance', in *The Selected Writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson*, ed. with a biographical introduction by Brooks Atkinson (New York: The Modern Library, 1964).

Toni Morrison, 'Romancing the Shadow', in *Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and Literary Imagination* (London: Picador, 1993) pp.29–39.

C-7/PAPER 7: BRITISH POETRY AND DRAMA: 17TH AND 18TH CENTURIES (BPD-2)

Course Level Learning Outcomes

Some of the course learning outcomes that students of this course are required to demonstrate run thus:

- identify the major characteristics of the Comedy of Manners and Mock-Heroic poetry
- demonstrate in-depth knowledge and understanding of the religious, socio-intellectual and cultural thoughts of the 17th and 18th centuries
- examine critically key themes in representative texts of the period, including Sin, Transgression, Love, Pride, revenge, sexuality, human follies, among others
- show their appreciation of texts in terms of plot-construction, socio-cultural contexts and genre of poetry and drama
- analyze literary devices forms and techniques in order to appreciate and interpret the texts

Course Content:

Unit-I:

- Religious and Secular Thought in the 17th Century
- Changing Images of the Human Being in the Literature of the Period
- The Stage, the State and the Market
- The Mock-epic and Satire
- Women in the 17th Century
- The Comedy of Manners

Unit-II:

John Milton: *Paradise Lost: Book I*

Unit-III:

John Webster: *The Duchess of Malfi*

Unit-IV:

Aphra Behn: *The Rover*

Unit-V:

Alexander Pope: *The Rape of the Lock*

Suggested Readings

The Holy Bible, *Genesis*, chaps. 1–4, *The Gospel according to St. Luke*, chaps. 1–7 and 22–4.

Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*, ed. and tr. Robert M. Adams (New York: Norton, 1992) chaps. 15, 16, 18, and 25.

Thomas Hobbes, selections from *The Leviathan*, pt. I (New York: Norton, 2006) chaps. 8, 11, and 13.

John Dryden, ‘A Discourse Concerning the Origin and Progress of Satire’, in *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, vol. 1, 9th edn, ed. Stephen Greenblatt (New York: Norton 2012) pp. 1767–8.

5th Semester

C-9/PAPER 9: BRITISH ROMANTIC LITERATURE (BRL)

Course Level Learning Outcomes

Some of the course learning outcomes that students of this course are required to demonstrate run thus:

- understand Romanticism as a concept in relation to ancillary concepts like Classicism
- understand the Romantic period in English literature in terms of its social, philosophical, intellectual, literary backgrounds including German and French influences
- analyze and understand the main characteristics of Romanticism
- appreciate the canonical and representative poems and prose of the writers of the Romantic period.
- develop skills of critical analysis and interpretation of selected poems in order to understand the theme, language, style, and elements of prosody.
- appreciate and analyze the sensibility of the British Romantic period: common man, equality, freedom, sense of community and fraternity
- relate Romantic literary texts to other forms of expression such as painting, for instance.

Course Content

Unit-I:

- Reason and Imagination
- Conceptions of Nature
- Literature and Revolution
- The Gothic
- The Romantic Lyric

Unit-II:

William Blake 'The Lamb',
'The Chimney Sweeper' (from *The Songs of Innocence and The Songs of Experience*)
'The Tyger' (*The Songs of Experience*)
'Introduction' to *The Songs of Innocence*
Robert Burns 'A Bard's Epitaph'

‘Scots Wha Hae’

Unit-III:

William Wordsworth ‘Tintern Abbey’

‘Ode: Intimations of Immortality’

Samuel Taylor Coleridge ‘Kubla Khan’

‘Dejection: An Ode’

Unit-IV:

Lord George Gordon

Noel Byron ‘Childe Harold’: canto III, verses 36–45 (lines 316–405); canto IV, verses 178–86

(lines 1594–674)

Percy Bysshe Shelley ‘Ode to the West Wind’

‘Ozymandias’

John Keats ‘Ode to a Nightingale’

‘To Autumn’

Unit-V:

Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein*

Suggested Readings

William Wordsworth, ‘Preface to Lyrical Ballads’, in *Romantic Prose and Poetry*, ed. Harold Bloom and Lionel Trilling (New York: OUP, 1973) pp. 594–611.

John Keats, ‘Letter to George and Thomas Keats, 21 December 1817’, and ‘Letter to Richard Woodhouse, 27 October, 1818’, in *Romantic Prose and Poetry*, ed. Harold Bloom and Lionel Trilling (New York: OUP, 1973) pp. 766–68, 777–8.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, ‘Preface’ to *Emile or Education*, tr. Allan Bloom (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1991).

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *Biographia Literaria*, ed. George Watson (London: Everyman, 1993) chap. XIII, pp. 161–66.

6th Semester

C-12/PAPER 12: BRITISH LITERATURE: THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY (BL-3)

Course Level Learning Outcomes

Some of the course learning outcomes that students of this course are required to demonstrate run thus:

- trace the history of modernism in the socio-cultural and intellectual contexts of late nineteenth century and early twentieth century Europe
- link and distinguish between modernity and modernism
- explain the links between developments in science and experiments in literature
- explain the history of early twentieth-century modernism in the light of stream of consciousness, Jungian and Freudian ideas, Psychoanalysis, Imagism, Cubism, Vorticism
- identify and analyze the use and modernist technique in different genres in early twentieth century British literature
- trace the history of the self and subjectivity in literature in the light of colonial consciousness
- explain and analyze the idea of form in modernist literary texts from across major genres

Course Content:

Unit-I:

- Modernism, post-modernism, and non-European Cultures
- The Women's Movement in the Early 20th Century
- Psychoanalysis and the Stream of Consciousness
- Literature and the Fear of Disintegration
- The Uses of Myth
- Nation and Narration in Early Twentieth Century Novel
- The Avant Garde

Unit-II:

Joseph Conrad: *Heart of Darkness*

Unit-III:

D.H. Lawrence: *Sons and Lovers*

Unit-IV:

Virginia Woolf: *Mrs Dalloway*

Unit-V:

W.B. Yeats: 'Leda and the Swan'

'The Second Coming'

'Sailing to Byzantium'

T.S. Eliot: 'The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock'

'The Hollow Men'

Suggested Readings

Sigmund Freud, 'Theory of Dreams', 'Oedipus Complex', and 'The Structure of the Unconscious', in *The Modern Tradition*, ed. Richard Ellman et al. (Oxford: OUP, 1965) pp. 571, 578–80, 559–63.

T.S. Eliot, 'Tradition and the Individual Talent', in *Norton Anthology of English Literature*, 8th edn, vol. 2, ed. Stephen Greenblatt (New York: Norton, 2006) pp. 2319–25.

Raymond Williams, 'Introduction', in *The English Novel from Dickens to Lawrence* (London: Hogarth Press, 1984) pp. 9–27.